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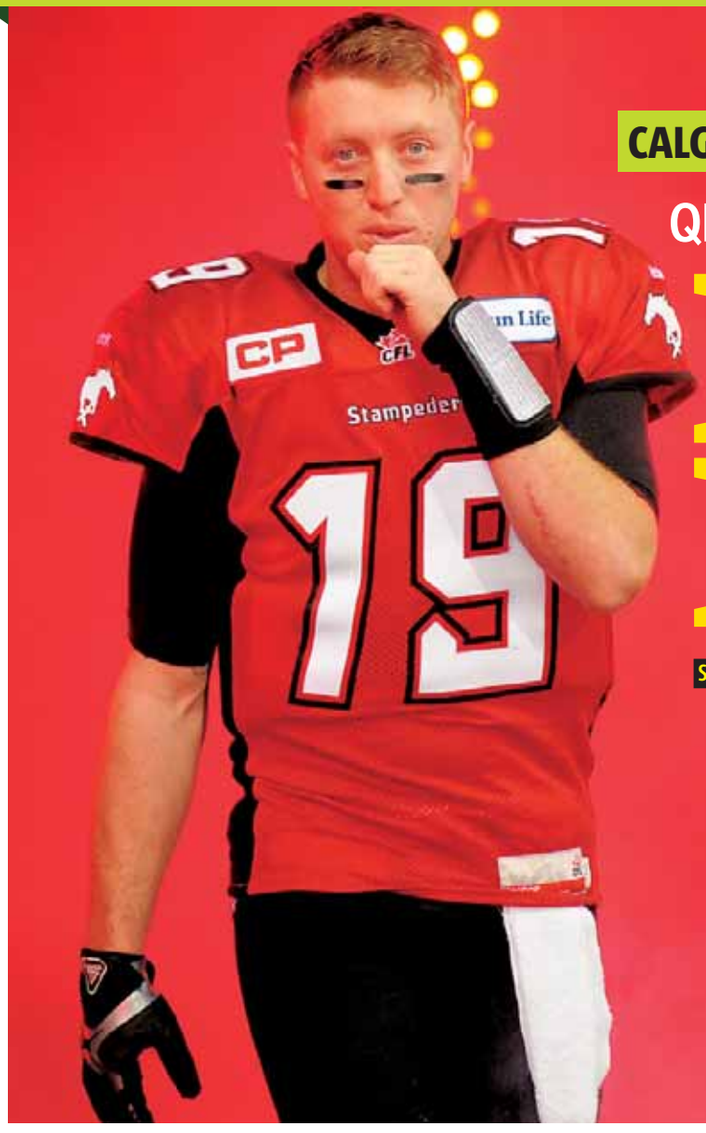

CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

CALGARY 2015: ONE TO WATCH

QB HAS CITY'S HOPES ON HIS SHOULDER PADS

Bo Levi Mitchell

STORY ON PAGE 4 — PLUS, MEET 3 MORE INFLUENCERS UNDER THE AGE OF 30

INSIDE:

- It's not enough to talk about sexual assault — we need action (Pg 18)
- Folks, it's time for an etiquette lesson (Pg 41)
- Mike Morrison's New Year's resolutions for Calgary (Pg 28)
- Are we any closer to that far-flung 2015 envisioned in Back to the Future 2? (Pg 31)

and more...

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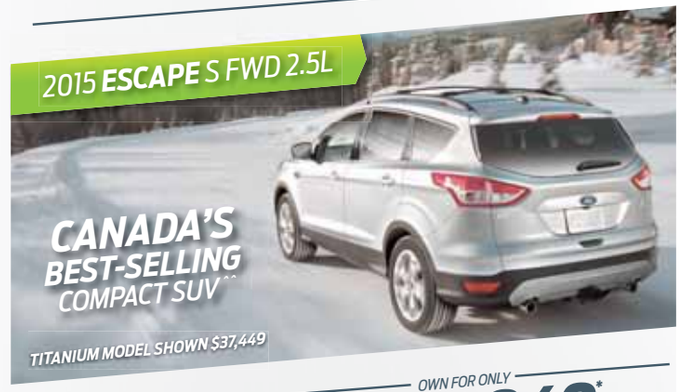

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Gonna party like it's 2015

For auld lang syne.
Resolve to ring in the new year right at one of the many shindigs going down on Dec. 31

Go ahead, wear your sunglasses at night on New Year's Eve if you want to. ISTOCK

Calgary's always had great places to get together for fun with family and friends during the holiday season — and things tend to get ramped up for New Year's Eve. Chances are, though, that if you don't have tickets for a swanky event lined up somewhere in the city, you need some ideas on where to hang out.

Here are a number of great events you can take in — and many of them are family friendly:

• The City of Calgary always puts on a great event down at Olympic Plaza (228–8 Ave. SE). It starts at 9 p.m. and winds down just after midnight. There are musical performances, ice sculptures and a fire demonstration. Best part about this one is it's free.

• Zoolights at the Calgary Zoo: The zoo's annual light display winds down on New Year's Eve, but it's a great family-friendly event filled with activity areas for the kids and lots of hot chocolate. On New Year's Eve, they will have fireworks at 8 p.m. Gates open at 6 p.m. and patrons can stick around until 9 p.m. Tickets must be purchased in advance on the zoo's website.

• Pool Party! Slip on some trunks or a bikini and head on over to the Village Square Leisure Centre (2623–56 St. NE) — they'll be hosting a NYE family pool party from 5 to 8 p.m. The tunes will be thumping with a live DJ and, of course, they'll provide a few more treats. Family admission is $25.15.

• Let's face it, sometimes the young ones just won't last at night, but you still want them to have some fun ringing in the new year. Here are a couple of events: First, you can hit the Telus Spark Science Centre for a celebration that goes from 10 a.m. to noon. They'll have a new year's countdown for kids at noon. Admission fees apply. Next, maybe for the slightly older kids, there's a family dance party at city hall from 7 to 9 p.m. at the City Municipal Building at 800 Macleod Trail SE.

• Finally, if you're looking for something a bit more upscale, you still might be able to get tickets for a host of adult events around the city. There's a wide variety out there and many of them sell available tickets at the door. Check out the website todocanada.ca and search "New Years Eve in Calgary."

METRO

Getting around

- **Public transit.** Calgary Transit will have C-Train and bus service out of the downtown until 3 a.m. — so you'll still be able to find a ride after last call, but you'll have to dig into your pockets to catch a ride. There will be no free service for new year's, but the city will have the extended time — and provide extra security and cleaning staff to make sure ... well, you know.
- **Cabs.** Calgary is a notoriously difficult city to grab a cab in on any weekend night, let alone the biggest party night of the year. The city has added a few more plates to the streets this past year, so we'll see if things are any better. Cab apps seem to hook you up pretty quick to the cabbies, and we've heard the ones from United Cabs and Checker seem to get you the best response.
- **Car.** If cabs or transit aren't up your alley, plan ahead this new year's and make sure you have a designated driver. We want our readers safe and sound to start an exciting 2015.

CALGARY 2015: ONE TO WATCH

MVP to keep rocking sports scene

Bo Levi Mitchell. Stamps quarterback wants another Grey Cup victory in 2015

CANDACE WARD
For Metro

Success was no accident for Calgary Stampeders starting quarterback and Grey Cup MVP Bo Levi Mitchell in 2014 — and now all eyes are on Mitchell's impact on the local sports scene in 2015.

The poise and leadership of the 24-year-old third-year pro reinvigorated the football passion in a city searching for pro sports success.

His hard work paid off when he led the Stamps to their Grey Cup win over the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in the 102nd Grey Cup in November.

Aside from the Grey Cup success, Mitchell also holds the current title for the first quarterback in CFL history to win 12 of his 13 starts, among other notable team and league records, and plans on making 2015 an even bigger year.

Mitchell says the goal for 2015 is to repeat the Grey Cup win, but not only that, he also hopes to improve the team's record from this year's 15-3 win record.

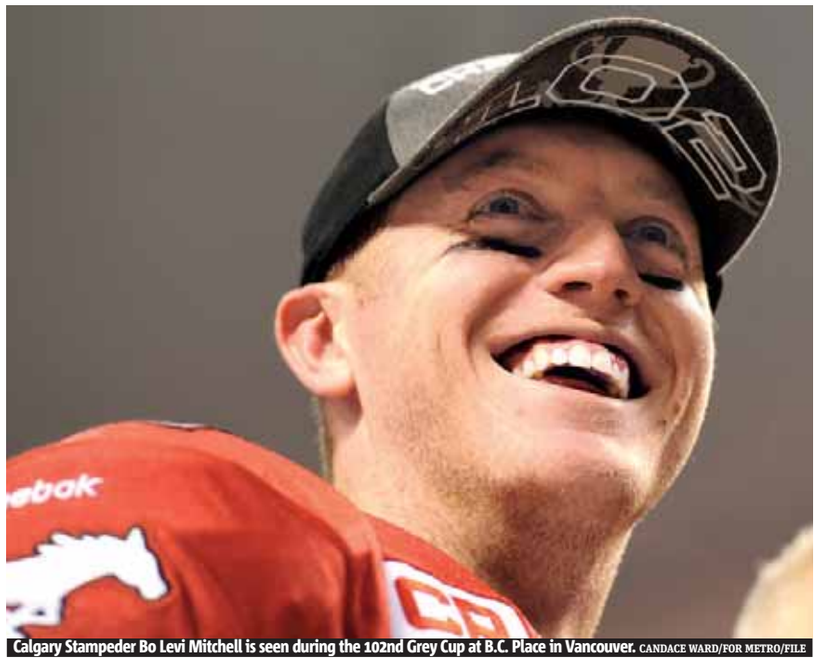
With that comes the city buzz of having a CFL winner and the spinoffs around Calgary. Merchandise sales, beer sales, ticket sales, fans gathering in watering holes around the city — all rest somewhat on the fate of the young QB's success, along with that of the red and black.

"There is going to be a lot of hard work during the off-season; there is going to be a lot of hard work during the season," said Mitchell.

Mitchell has never been the type of person to shy away from hard work, and having been named starting quarterback for the 2014 CFL season after spending 2013 as the third-string quarterback, he had something to prove.

"As a quarterback, you are getting paid more than most, so if you are not doing more work than other people, you don't deserve it," says Mitchell.

Instead of putting in his required four hours of work each day with the team, Mitchell put in an average of seven to 10 — being the first one to arrive and one of the last ones to leave.



Calgary Stampeder Bo Levi Mitchell is seen during the 102nd Grey Cup at B.C. Place in Vancouver. CANDACE WARD/FOR METRO/FILE

"This is my job, this is my career, this is what I am getting paid to do and I love to do it, so why wouldn't I spend as much time as possible getting better at it?" he says.

Personally, Mitchell hopes the off-season will give him time to focus on becoming an even better athlete by continuing to work with quarterback coach Jeff Garcia (Montreal Alouettes) and training with his brother. He also plans on spending more time in Calgary training with his teammates and spending more time in the community, where he's now a household name. With his name brand never higher in Calgary, dozens of groups around the city will be looking for a piece of Mitchell to help further their cause.

Never one to step into the limelight of his own free will, Mitchell is quickly learning how to deal with his newfound fame and success.

"People are starting to recognize me now, asking for pictures," he said.

With that comes the pressure from thousands of diehard CFL fans in Calgary expecting the hometown club to continue the success they had in 2014.

Mitchell's impact in the city will surely be far-reaching in 2015.

Quoted

"As a quarterback, you are getting paid more than most, so if you are not doing more work than other people, you don't deserve it."

Bo Levi Mitchell

CALGARY 2015: 3 MORE INFLUENCERS UNDER 30

Songstress Jocelyn Alice adds to discography

Over the past decade and a bit, Calgary-born singer-songwriter Jocelyn Alice has put together an impressive resumé — locally, nationally and internationally — and 2015 could add a lot to it.

We should have guessed it was only a matter of time — as a 17-year-old, the now near-30 Alice was the runner-up in Canada's Pop Stars competition.

After taking an indefinite hiatus from her popular duo Jocelyn & Lisa, with bassist Lisa Jacobs, Alice was signed by L.A.-based label Secret Road Music Services and has kept busy with a number of projects.

Her music has been licensed by the shows One Tree Hill and Pretty Little Liars, and the movie Dear Santa, and she recorded the iTunes hit So Groovy for the retailer Target.

Alice was also the vocalist for the hugely popular 2013 "Right Here" for Calgary Economic Development.

So why is 2015 going to be a big year for the Calgary star? She's in studio prepping for her very first solo pop album. METRO

Student leader Levi Nilson fights tuition hikes

Talk of tuition hikes and potential cutbacks to post-secondary funding has city student representatives on the offensive in a bid to protect their programs and keep costs down.

Among those leading the charge is Levi Nilson, 22, the vice-president external with the University of Calgary Students' Union.

Nilson took administrators to task for pressing ahead with tuition hike proposals despite his saying that a majority of students don't support them, and has helped organize rallies, photo shoots and other efforts to protest the measures.

He'll be watching closely in 2015 for indications as to whether Premier Jim Prentice will follow through on an election promise and restore the remaining post-secondary funding slashed in a difficult 2013 budget.

"It's amazing that as soon as oil prices change we see the opposite coming," he said. "It's really a question of how the government prioritizes post-secondary ... we want the government and we want society to place a value on us."

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Ala'a Hamdan keeps activism alive in Calgary

Ala'a Hamdan, 22, helped organize a series of pro-Palestine rallies in Calgary at the height of violence in Gaza in July and then scolded the few members attending who became violent and attacked a pro-Israel counter-protest.

She fought for the right to peacefully assemble on the University of Calgary campus.

But controversy has also followed Hamdan. She came under fire from members of Calgarians United With Israel after posting a violent battle hymn on Facebook.

Still, Hamdan is among a group of young adults steering a move toward public activism in a city that used to see just a handful of people show up to any given protest.

Recently, those from her circle of friends also helped organize a protest called Black Lives Matter in solidarity for the residents of Ferguson, Missouri.

Will Calgary's activist community keep up the pace in 2015? If so, it's likely Hamdan will have a hand in it.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

CALGARY 2015: TRANSIT

‘Real-time’ app coming down the line

Technology. Riders may be skeptical after newly launched website’s hiccups

HELEN PIKE
helen.pike@metronews.ca

Connect cards are just one of Calgary Transit’s upcoming technological launches. METRO FILE

While it’s not certain we will ever have more service hours, Calgary Transit has continued a trend of introducing technologies, and one we can expect in the new year is a cellphone app featuring everyone’s favourite “real-time” technology.

Although it’s still not known what the app will include, when exactly it will arrive and how it will compare to third-party players who are years ahead in the game, Calgary Transit will give users a mobile experience in the new year.

Warning: there may be hiccups. Judging from the grand entrance Calgary Transit’s website made and how well “real-time” is working so far, the app may not make such a great first impression. Riders will likely be highly critical of the app and its functions.

When the new, long-awaited page was launched, it crashed multiple times, on a holiday. As for the “real-time” functionality, Calgary Transit is still working out some kinks. Buses are still arriving early or late, without much explanation behind why or how this could happen.

Once the app is out, third party developers will have access to the real-time data as well, giving users several options when it comes to planning their route on a smartphone.

Connect card

Another investment in technology

Calgary Transit will continue to invest in technology starting with the launch of the Connect card.

The electronic-fare system has been long-awaited, and in September Calgary Transit started testing out their Connect card technology.

Without a launch date in place, it’s hard to say when the cards will come.

But when it gets here we can’t wait to see what transit will upgrade next.

CALGARY 2015: SCHOOLS

Big changes for Calgary schools

Between looming deadlines for building promised schools, the return of gay-straight alliance bills to legislature, and more, 2015 will be an interesting year.

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Tight timelines loom for building Redford-era schools

Shovels will have to break in 2015 on a slate of 13 public and Catholic schools pledged by former Premier Alison Redford if boards and the provincial government are to meet a timeline for planned ribbon-cuttings in September 2016. This comes as Calgary's public school board anticipates it will see in excess of 4,000 additional students sign up for classes in September.

Gay-straight alliances bills to return to Alberta legislature

The Prentice government has gone back to the drawing board in a bid to find a "balance" with a bill that would offer more support for gay-straight alliances in schools. The ruling Tories have said they couldn't support Bill 202 from Liberal Laurie Blakeman, which would require school boards to support such groups. But the replacement bill from Prentice and co. was widely discredited by members of the LGBTQ community and others, prompting the premier to "pause" its approval.

Court fights to come to a head over pledged schools

It's likely the courts will weigh in on two sought injunctions to block development of a replacement special-needs school in Varsity and a Francophone school in Scenic Acres. All parties agree the new facilities are needed, but residents in the two communities contend the Calgary Board of Education violated the Municipal Government Act by retaining possession of land they'd deemed surplus over the years. Both the CBE and the Francophone board have said they hope to break ground in 2015.

Trustee byelection looms in springtime

After lengthy talks over whether a byelection should be held to replace resigned Calgary Board of Education trustee Sheila Taylor, her remaining peers opted to press ahead with such a contest. Early indications are numerous candidates will turnout, but questions remain about whether voter turnout will be high. Two candidates have already publicly committed to running and others are privately weighing similar endeavours. The CBE has said the vote will likely be held in mid-April and could cost up to $170,000.

Post-secondary institutions fear a repeat of 2013

With declining oil revenues, officials at city post-secondary institution have already begun warning of a potential dip in provincial funding. Some fear the damage will be more severe, not unlike the nine per cent turnaround in once-pledged funding in 2013 that forced many schools to scrap programs, eliminate jobs and trim student enrolment. Raising the stakes on the file further for Premier Jim Prentice is a pledge he made to restore the remaining funds cut in 2013.

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CALGARY 2015: COUNCIL

Year of the chicken?

Bawk bawk. Chickens will call backyard coops their home next year

HELEN PIKE
helen.pike@metronews.ca

Before I run out of fresh chicken puns to lace into my coop coverage, Calgary will have an urban hen pilot. This is the year for fresh eggs, and if council forgets about getting their ducks all in a row and concentrates on this poultry experiment we should be wrapping up a trial-run by March of 2016.

Coun. Gian-Carlo Carra has written a motion he hopes to ring in after the new year and he has a number of supporters on council and in the community.

All he has to do now is find the money-saving formula to impress nay-sayers and his fellow colleagues.

A council-approved pilot won't be free. But local poultry proponent Paul Hughes is trying to convince the city that volunteers are the way to go.

Either way, however achieved, chickens will call backyards their home in 2015.

Looking to our neighbours, Edmonton included, it's not tough to crack — urban hen popularity is on the rise and Calgary needs to catch up. There are already a number of pilots and successful programs running in Alberta, and council has dragged its feet since the inception of CLUCK in 2008.

If decided, the pilot will be on time with Medicine Hat's project, putting Calgary on the map, leaping from urban gardening to urban farming and introducing livestock in the local sustainable food market.

An urban hen pilot program is coming to Calgary. ISTOCK

Controversial units

Secondary suite rules could change

Calgary remains one of the few places in Canada where you can't simply set up a separate suite in your home for your mother-in-law to live in or to rent out as a way to help pay your mortgage.

But that could change next year.

Currently, hundreds of thousands of Calgarians live in residential areas zoned for single-family homes only, where a rezoning application — and approval — is required in order to legally section off part of your home with a separate entrance and kitchen.

That involves going before council at a public hearing and standing at a microphone to plead your case to the mayor and 14 councillors, all while being broadcast on television.

The process is time consuming for all involved, and can be intimidating for many. It resulted in several awkward situations in 2014, including some neighbours bringing vaguely racist objections in opposition to a rezoning application, and an older gentleman detailing his wife's health problems and their shared financial woes in a bid to be allowed to live in a family member's basement.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi apologized to that man, as did several other councillors, for putting him through such an ordeal before approving his suite.

All this has helped push the controversial issue to the forefront of the discourse at city hall, and a growing number of voices — including the business community, post-secondary students, social agencies — have been calling for reform.

While many Calgarians — and city councillors — remain strongly opposed to broadly permitted secondary suites, fearing parking problems and lost property values for neighbouring homes, the growing need for housing in the city and shifting attitudes toward the issue mean this is one policy that could see a major change in 2015.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

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CALGARY 2015: ROADS

Snow-clearing keeps budget on thin ice

Bad conditions.
Snow removal after a major storm is a costly endeavour for an already tight city budget

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Last winter wreaked havoc on Calgary's roads, with one snowstorm in particular stranding some residents for days and burning through the city's base snow-clearing budget and back-up reserve fund.

It also set a new precedent, one that saw the city not just clear snow from residential roads but also remove it. The move came out of sheer necessity but city officials worry it may have set a new expectation in Calgarians' minds that their finances won't be able to handle, should there be another major dump in 2015.

Council decided in November to boost next year's snow-clearing budget from $35 million to $37 million in order to better maintain sidewalks that lead to major transit stops. It will also re-direct cash from its much larger fiscal stability reserve fund to replenish the snow-clearing reserve, in case that $37 million falls a little short for the overall work.

But you can bet bean counters at city hall will be watching the skies with nervous eyes throughout the winter, as another unusually snowy season could spell big trouble for the already stretched budget.

Calgary still counts on a relatively dry Southern Alberta climate and regular chinooks to take care of many roads and sidewalks.

But people's expectations are changing, and perhaps the climate is too. If 2015 offers up another harsh winter, public outrage may prompt a new approach to snow and ice control.

In response to last winter's severe snow dump, the city has increased its snow-clearing budget by $2 million. METRO FILE

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Transportation

Will Calgary become an Uber haven?

Backers of the e-hailing app Uber have made their intentions clear that they want to enter the Calgary market but say they're being held up by archaic regulations around taxi and limousine service.

The stakeholder-run Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee, which city council generally takes its cues from, has convened a special subcommittee to explore options like reducing the minimum fare luxury sedans are required to charge and allowing such elite vehicles to pick up rides from the curb side during peak hours.

If those measures are approved, it could pave the road for Uber to enter Calgary with its Black service.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Matthew de Grood

Public may hear details of mass murder in March

A two-week preliminary hearing is scheduled for early March in which it's expected the first details of how Calgary's worst mass murder occurred will be released.

Matthew de Grood, 23, is accused of killing five people at a house party in Brentwood last April. Several media outlets have also requested access to warrants and interviews with witnesses conducted immediately after the horrifying killings. Judge Tim Hironaka has put a decision on that matter over to a week after the preliminary hearing begins.

Families of the victims have issued a statement pleading that such information not be released.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

CALGARY 2015: CYCLING

Bike lanes get the green light

Kind of. After spinning their wheels through all of 2014, city staff agree to pilot project

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

In terms of time spent talking per dollar spent building, the Centre City Cycle Track Network must have set a record at city hall.

For a project that will ultimately amount to less than $10 million on a $3.5-billion city budget, councillors spent countless hours grilling city staff, pontificating in front of TV cameras, and debating one another in rhetorical circles.

Finally, when the dust settled, the project — which will see a series of separated bike lanes built in downtown Calgary — was approved by a razor-thin margin, an 8-7 vote at council, with a few big conditions.

Condition 1: No bike lane on 1 Street SE. This was perhaps the most controversial part of the network, as it would involve removing one lane of motor-vehicle traffic on the exceptionally busy south access point into the centre city.

Condition 2: It will be a pilot project. Instead of building permanent barriers out of concrete, more temporary structures will separate cyclist from motorist, with the potential for being removed if everyone ends up hating them.

Initial construction began this fall but major construction will begin in the spring, with cycle tracks set to open in July 2015.

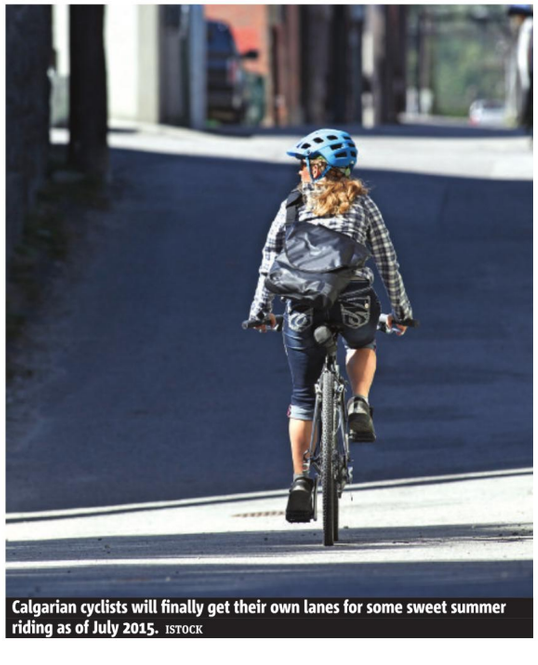
That doesn't mean the debate is settled, though. Not by a long shot.

The next battlefield will be the bike counts.

Supporters of the network will be looking for big jumps in the number of people riding, while opponents will jump on any indicators that the project is not encouraging more people to opt for two-wheeled transport.

Both sides will have a new tool to bolster their case: The city plans to introduce real-time bike counts on at least part of the cycle-track network (7 Street SW) early in the new year, with data being broadcast on the web for all to see and analyze.

Look for the numbers to be spun every which way, once they go live in 2015.



Calgarian cyclists will finally get their own lanes for some sweet summer riding as of July 2015. ISTOCK

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CANADA 2015: COURT

We saw a lot of big names land in court this year, which means there will be a lot of courtroom drama to watch in 2015. These are some of the major criminal cases to keep an eye on, according to Canadian defence lawyer Daniel Brown.

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
Metro in Toronto

5 High profile court cases to watch

Sandro Lisi

TORSTAR FILE

Former Toronto mayor Rob Ford's friend and driver Alexander (Sandro) Lisi is expected to be go on trial for charges of extortion, as well as trafficking in marijuana, possession of the proceeds of crime, possession of marijuana and conspiracy to commit an indictable offence.

Lisi is accused of extorting Liban Siyad and Mohamed Siad in attempts to get the first Ford crack video.

There is no guarantee the public will get a chance to see the crack video in the course of the Lisi trial because it is possible it won't be used as evidence, Brown said.

Ford has been subpoenaed. "We can expect Rob Ford might come to court and testify, presuming he's healthy enough to do so," Brown said.

Jian Ghomeshi

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

The case against former Q radio host Jian Ghomeshi will make its way through the court system and may go to trial in 2015, said Brown.

Ghomeshi is charged with four counts of sexual assault and one count of "overcome resistance, choking" involving three victims.

Details of the case will be made public in the New Year, but the identity of two of the women accusing him of sexual assault will remain covered by a publication ban.

The third, actress Lucy DeCoutere, requested to be named publicly.

James Forcillo

TORSTAR FILE

James Forcillo is charged with second-degree murder and attempted murder in the July 2013 Toronto streetcar shooting death of Sammy Yatim.

His trial will be a rare one — a police officer charged with murder.

Yatim, 18, was allegedly holding a knife on an empty Dundas West streetcar when he was shot eight times. Cellphone video and surveillance video of the shooting have been seen by the public and spurred anti-police violence protests across the city.

Dellen Millard

CONTRIBUTED

Dellen Millard faces three counts of first-degree murder, including one for the death of Tim Bosma.

Bosma went missing after leaving his Ancaster, Ont., home to take the truck he was selling on a test drive. His burned remains were later found on Millard's farm.

Mark Smich is also charged in that homicide.

Millard is also charged with first-degree murder in the death of his father and the death of Laura Babcock, a friend who went missing in June 2012.

Justin Bieber

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Justin Bieber, accused of dangerous driving and assaulting a member of the paparazzi, could face a trial in Stratford, Ontario, Brown said.

Bieber himself has not made a court appearance in the case, disappointing the Beliebers who have been on hand to catch a glimpse.

"If his case goes to trial, we can expect him there," said Brown.

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CANADA 2015: PIPELINES

Pipelines' futures far from certain

'Breakdown of fundamental trust.'
Builders must go beyond obtaining the necessary permits

Quoted

"It seems no matter where you look, what you've got is a lot of discord and a lot of potential for that to grow."

Michael Cleland, Nexen executive in residence at the Canada West Foundation

Protester Marija Brzev locked herself to a cement block with a bike lock on Nov. 20, 2014 as at least a dozen RCMP officers entered an anti-pipeline encampment in B.C. and started making arrests. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

Once considered a rather ho-hum line of business, pipelines dominated much of the public discourse in 2014. In recent years, the debate has spread beyond the direct environmental impacts of putting steel in the ground into broader issues around anything from global climate change to First Nations rights.

Although proposed projects from Alberta's oilsands to the east, west and U.S. Gulf Coasts made some progress over the past year, their prospects remain far from certain.

A near-halving in crude prices over the past six months has led to widespread belt-tightening in the oilpatch, calling into question future demand for new transport infrastructure. But that's just one of the litany of challenges for pipeline builders seeking "social licence" to build their projects — measures that go beyond simply obtaining the necessary government permits.

Enbridge, for example, has had a federal permit to build its multibillion-dollar Northern Gateway pipeline to the West Coast in hand since the summer, subject to 209 conditions.

But shovels are not hitting the ground soon for the 525,000-barrel-per-day conduit that would connect oilsands crude to the West Coast port of Kitimat, B.C., and from there to energy-hungry Asian markets.

Rather, Enbridge has been "re-engaging" with B.C. First Nations along the route, many of which have been outspoken opponents of the project, concerned a potential spill would destroy the water on land on which they rely.

Pipelines have also been at the centre of a larger public debate about fighting climate change. And industry and government efforts to build public support for pipelines hasn't been going well, said Michael Cleland, Nexen executive in residence at the Canada West Foundation.

A former assistant deputy minister in the federal Natural Resources department, Cleland said there's a "breakdown of fundamental trust of the various institutions that are in play here."

"People feel that they can't get in the door, that they can't get their voices heard on all sorts of things, including what are you doing about greenhouse gas management and what are you doing about long-term regional land-use planning and so on," he said.

Industry seems to now understand how important it is to engage at the community level early on, said Cleland.

"The locally affected communities are the ones where you're most likely to find people who care about it, but are also in a position to see both the benefits and the potential risks," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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AMVIC Alberta Motor Vehicle Industry Council

Jian Ghomeshi leaves College Park court with his lawyers in November. The case has sparked a national dialogue on sexual assault. COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

CANADA 2015: SEXUAL ASSAULT

Will conversation translate into needed action?

Are we all talk?
If we don't do something, we risk losing any progress we've made this year

ANGELA MULLINS
Metro in Toronto

Society is fickle.

It always has been, in a way, but we see it more today than ever before.

It used to take hours for news to spread across the country or around the globe, landing in your living room just in time for breakfast. Now, it spreads faster than a British Columbia wildfire during a drought.

As a result, the conversations we have often change just as fast. Outrage about government scandals blends into chatter about the best new meme blends into more outrage about whatever's captured our short attention spans. We are like kittens working the production line in a glitter factory.

The conversation we had about sexual assault this year broke the modern-day mould.

Sparked largely by accusations now-dethroned CBC Radio icon Jian Ghomeshi used power to parlay violence, Canada's dialogue about what's right and just plain wrong in the bedroom, workplace and everywhere else didn't blend into anything else.

It was, for months, at the forefront of intense political debates, casual coffeehouse conversations and, perhaps most importantly these days, social media.

Hashtags like #BeenRapedNeverReported and #NoMore started trending on Twitter as a steady line of women stepped forward to declare they had been raped, felt up or treated like a sex toy.

Could it be that after decades of hushed back-room whispers about body shapes and less-than-consensual one-night stands that we had turned a corner?

Everyone hoped — and continues to hope — that's the case. Given our past behaviour, however, it's doubtful.

Remember the throngs of Hollywood stars who stood front and centre during the HIV/AIDS movement? How about all those moustaches proudly sprouted for Movember? Or the deaths of Michael Brown and Cpl. Nathan Cirillo?

All were, at some point in the very recent past, issues pushed to the forefront of a communal march toward a better world. But, unfortunately, the fervor has died.

A change

The conversation we had about sexual assault this year broke the modern-day mould.

When was the last time you saw someone wearing an AIDS ribbon? Canada raised 45 per cent less for Movember this year than in 2013.

The #BlackLivesMatter hashtag, synonymous with Brown's death at the hands of a Missouri police officer, is still being used, but it's hardly trending. After being gunned down on Parliament Hill, Cirillo is now being remembered as only one of many stories of 2014.Our conversation about sexual assault risks the same fate unless it moves from talk to action in 2015.

Promises by political committees dedicated to the topic need to be fulfilled, promises of more support for victims need to become reality and victims need to continue coming forward with stories that turn enough stomachs to hold our attention spans — over and over again.

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WORLD 2015: STORIES TO WATCH

Cubans. Looking ahead with cautious optimism

The restoration of diplomatic ties between Cuba and the United States unleashed expectations of even more momentous changes on an island that often seems frozen in a past of classic cars and crumbling Art Deco buildings.

Following the surprise announcement, many Cubans expressed hope that it will mean greater access to jobs and the creature comforts taken for granted elsewhere, and lift a struggling socialist economy where staples like meat, cooking oil and toilet paper are often hard to come by.

That yearning, however, was tempered with anxiety. Some fear a cultural onslaught, or that crime and drugs, both rare in Cuba, will become common along with visitors from the U.S.. There is also concern that the country will become just another Caribbean destination.

That mix of optimism and concern was a common refrain among Cubans trying to digest the implications of such a seismic shift between the two Cold War rivals after more than half a century of bad blood.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hackers calling themselves "Guardians of Peace" wreaked havoc on Sony Pictures in one of the most eye-opening of many recent instances of Internet-based activism. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A tangled web we've woven

E-politics. The Internet has come into its own as a force for social change, both good and bad, and in this new world we'll all need to be brave

MATT LAFORGE
matt.laforge@metronews.ca

If 2013 was the year when, in light of the Edward Snowden disclosures, we finally reckoned with the true power of the Internet as wielded by governments and corporations, then 2014 was the year when, in light of the Woody Allen, Jian Ghomeshi and Bill Cosby affairs, GamerGate, and the anti-police-brutality protests — we reckoned with the true power of the Internet as wielded by civil society. (And then at year's end, of course, along came government's reply, in the form of the Sony hacks, which the U.S. eventually confirmed were the work of North Korea.)

The lessons we've learned have been profound, and the anxiety and uncertainty that remain will, I believe, lead to major social changes in 2015 and beyond. I don't know what they'll be but I guarantee they're coming.

Above all, what we'll continue to come to grips with in the coming years is that the Internet can do more than merely supplement the processes of the brick-and-mortar world; it can supersede and even outright replace those processes.

Quoted

When the primacy of certain institutions is no longer taken for granted, value systems are reopened for debate. It's in periods of such flux that great progress stands to be made.

A government can spy on you planting a bug.

A police officer thought to have committed an act of brutality can be identified, whether mistakenly or accurately, without his department releasing his name.

A man can be accused of being a sexual criminal, and be condemned by wide consensus — attaining a measure of social justice for victims and families — without the authorities trying, convicting or even arresting him.

A major entertainment conglomerate can have its private documents made public and can be forced, under threat of violence, to bury a $42-million movie without anyone breaking into the company's offices or so much as speaking to an employee. On some level, we've known for a while now that such things were possible. But there's a difference between knowing something could happen and watching it happen.

When the primacy of certain institutions — the criminal-justice system, for one — is no longer taken for granted, value systems are reopened for debate. It's in periods of such flux that great progress stands to be made. The wide-open questions that face us heading into 2015: Who will progress and at whose cost?

Climate change: Earth's elephant in the room

For most of 2014, news stories reporting climate scientists' findings about humanity's ongoing punishment of Earth's atmosphere, as well as their increasingly dire predictions about the severity of the damage on weather patterns, biodiversity and food supply that such punishment stands to inflict, appeared with the usual frequency.

These stories also appeared in the usual media venues, and the comments from the carbon-counting eggheads bore the usual flavour of urgency (assertive but polite, with a soupçon of held-out hope). But at a certain point in the year's latter months the conversation heated up.

First, in September, came the annual report from the Global Carbon Project. Predictably depressing results: emissions reached record levels in 2013, having increased by 2.3 per cent in 2013. Canada and the U.S. remain two of the world's worst per-capita emitters. Then, in the year's final weeks, another summit, this one in Lima, which itself was only a prelude to yet another summit next year in Paris, ended with the 190 participating countries agreeing to a set of emission-reduction pledges that nearly everyone involved characterized as craven and watered down.

Summation: Things got worse than ever in 2014.

Of course, the problem with saying that any one year's climate-change news is the worst yet is that it opens one up to charges of recency bias. The problem with recency-bias charge, however, is that, because the causes of climate-change are cumulative, every successive year that doesn't produce a concerted international counter-attack is in fact and by definition the worst year in the history of the problem.

This issue will not go away in 2015. Right up to the moment when we do what's required to make it better, it will only get worse.

MATT LAFORGE/METRO

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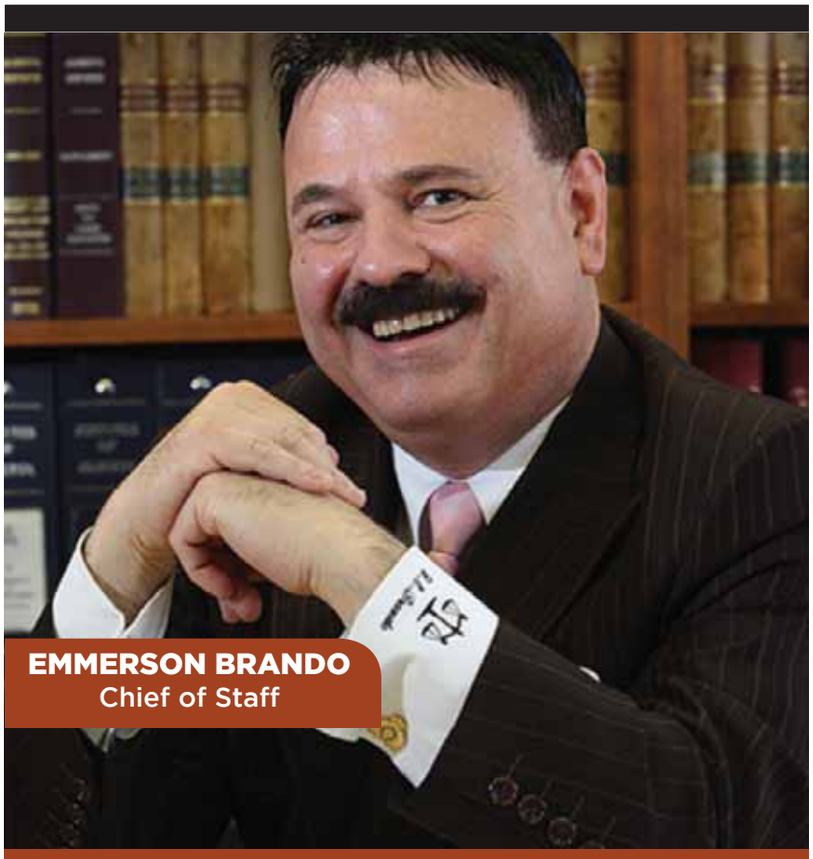

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WHO WE SAID GOODBYE TO IN 2014

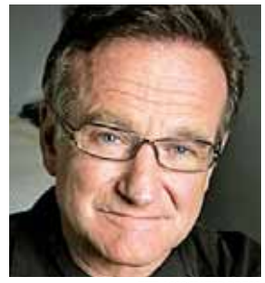
A list of some of the newsmakers who passed away this year.

Farley Mowat, 92

Master storyteller and tireless defender of nature and wildlife. He penned some 40 books, including Never Cry Wolf and The Boat Who Wouldn't Float. May 7.

Robin Williams, 63

Academy Award winner and comic supernova whose explosions of pop culture riffs and impressions dazzled audiences for decades. Aug. 11.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Maya Angelou, 86

Author and poet who rose from poverty, segregation and violence to become a force on stage, screen and the printed page. May 28.

Ariel Sharon, 85

Israeli general and prime minister who was both admired and hated for his battlefield exploits and ambitions to reshape the Middle East. Jan. 11.

Knowlton Nash, 86

Veteran CBC broadcaster best known as anchor of late evening news program The National from 1978 until his retirement in 1988. May 24.

Philip Seymour Hoffman, 46

He won a best actor Oscar in 2006 for his portrayal of writer Truman Capote in Capote and created a gallery of other vivid characters, many of them slovenly and comic figures. Feb. 2.

GETTY IMAGES

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joan Rivers, 81

Raucous, acid-tongued comedian who crashed the male-dominated realm of late-night talk shows and turned Hollywood red carpets into danger zones for badly dressed celebrities. Sept. 4.

Ben Bradlee, 93

Hard-charging editor who guided The Washington Post through its Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of the Watergate scandal and invigorated its newsroom for more than two decades. Oct. 21.

Pat Quinn, 71

Former NHL player, longtime coach and executive. He coached for the Philadelphia Flyers, Los Angeles Kings, Vancouver Canucks, Toronto Maple Leafs and Edmonton Oilers, reaching the Stanley Cup Finals twice. Nov. 23.

Jim Flaherty, 64

The former Canadian finance minister was a fixture on the world financial stage who stepped down in March to return to the private sector. He was credited with helping get Canada back on track to a balanced budget following the 2008 financial crisis. April 10.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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VOICES

CALGARY 2015: NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

THE GUESSING GAME

You never know what this city has in store, but Mike Morrison does his best to make some predictions for 2015

MIKE MORRISON
calgary@metronews.ca

As we begin to wrap up 2014, there's one thing that I know for sure: Living in Calgary is never boring. From freak September snowstorms to our 36th secondary-suite debate, it seems like just when we think we know what kind of city Calgary is, something or someone changes everything up.

But regardless of this city's unpredictability, I'm excited to make some predictions about the next 12 months.

2015 will no doubt be interesting on the political front, with a federal election. While the Conservatives usually have nothing to worry about here in Calgary, a lot of people have moved here since the last election. And with notable names like Kent Hehr and Nirmala Naidoo potentially in the running, the outcome of the next federal election is anyone's guess, especially in the more urban ridings. Or maybe that's just what I'm hoping.

Speaking of hoping, Calgary will get its first look at real bike lanes next year. Sure, we've had one separate bike lane for a few years, but before summer arrives, the city will set up some more expansive temporary bike-lane networks. They're a result of a compromise the city reached earlier this year. And while it's believed that the temporary lanes will likely become permanent, it will be interesting to see if Calgarians respond to the bike lanes as so many of us hope they do, because the last thing I want to do in 2015 is eat crow.

2015 may very well shape up to be the year of the bike lane in Calgary. METRO FILE

While we're on the topic of eating, Calgary goes into 2015 as one of hottest food scenes in all of North America. And while I love a good restaurant and can't wait for the Charcut spinoff, Charbar, to open up in the East Village, I'd love to see someone change the game completely. Wouldn't it be great to see the return of greasy-spoon diners, much like the Lido Café, which closed its doors in 2014? I've said it before, but I don't need all my food to be locally grown and organic. Sometimes I'd be happy if it was just affordable.

Loosen up

Here's hoping 2015 is the year that we continue to explore the idea of being treated like adults when it comes to consuming alcohol.

All this talk of food has me feeling thirsty. This past year, Calgary twice enjoyed looser liquor laws with little consequence. First, bars provincewide were allowed to open particularly early for the Olympic gold-medal men's hockey game. Then during Stampede, bars were allowed to start serving liquor at 10 a.m. Both times, the Calgary police reported zero problems. Here's hoping 2015 is the year that we continue to explore the idea of being treated like adults when it comes to consuming alcohol. I'd love to see Alberta follow B.C. and do away with beer gardens all together.

In reality, as much as I wish I could predict what will happen in 2015, the truth is Calgary will keep us on our toes for the next 12 months. Which is likely why we all love it so much.

If you all have a happy and healthy new year, then consider me a happy guy.

Mike Morrison writes Mike's Bloggity Blog and tweets from @mikesbloggity

New Year's resolutions for newsmakers *as imagined by Rebecca Kohler*

REBECCA KOHLER
readers@metronews.ca

People who participated in the Ice Bucket Challenge: This year, we resolve to donate to charity without being tagged by a friend on Facebook. And this year, we will actually donate money, not just a video of ourselves in that cute bikini we bought in Vegas.

Don't tell anyone, but we didn't even put ice in the water. In fact we warmed it up and put lavender bath salts in it. We pretended it was cold, but it was actually really soothing.

Jian Ghomeshi: This year, I resolve to start a really cool radio show about arts and culture. My only guest will be my mom and we'll broadcast from my childhood bedroom. If need be, I will relocate my studio to the Millhaven Institution.

Apple: Last year we released the iPhone 6, but that's old news — let's face it, it was old news five minutes after you bought it. (Sucker.)

This year, we resolve to launch the iPhone 10 — we'll release the 7, 8 and 9 quickly throughout the year but their batteries will only last for two months and we'll make sure their screens smash faster than Humpty Dumpty's skull.

The iPhone 10 will be nicknamed the iPhone Large and will be the size of an iPad Mini but so thin you won't be able to see it. It will come with an app that eats money and can be purchased on layaway with your first-born child as down payment.

Ebola: In 2015, I resolve to do more travelling. I hear Iceland is gorgeous!

Renée Zellweger: In 2015, I resolve to not change my face. I won't get Botox, or chemical peels (maybe one) and I will love myself for who I am.

It's hard because the film industry makes me feel bad about myself, so I changed my face, but then they all made fun of me so it's like, "What?!"

No, but seriously, I'll just stick to moisturizer and maybe some Retin-A but no fillers. I mean, who am I, Meg Ryan?

Malala Yousafzai: I am honoured to have won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014. I resolve this year to continue being one of the most inspirational people on the planet.

Perhaps in 2015 I will try improving the world further by posting a no-makeup selfie. I can only hope to be so brave.

Justin Bieber: 2015: Girls, peeing, mop-buckets, eggs, depositions, yo. Peace.

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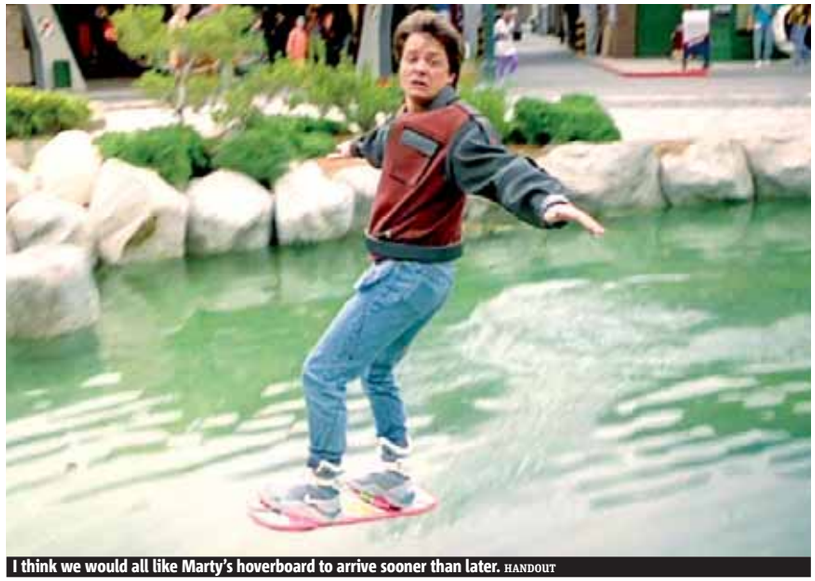
SCENE 2015: BACK TO THE FUTURE

Marty!! Are we any closer to trying your hoverboard?

Back to the Future 2 year is nigh. 2015 will bring us into the movie's future minus the DeLorean so let's do some comparisons

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood



I think we would all like Marty's hoverboard to arrive sooner than later. HANDOUT

It's time, everybody. We're finally reaching 2015, the future presented in the 1989 sequel Back to the Future II that was full of auto-drying jackets, freeze-dried pizza and hoverboards. So now is about as good a time as any to take stock and see how we're doing with the technological advancements predicted in the film.

Hoverboards
It looked like we almost had this a year ago, but it turned out to be a Funny or Die hoax that Tony Hawk was in on. He's back again saying for real he's really tried one out, but we're finding it hard to trust again. Besides, if Segways never really took off, what hope do hoverboards have?

Flying cars
Possibly the biggest gripe people today have about the future we were all promised. Way to continue that wave of disappointment, Back to the Future II.

Food hydrators
Still not sure exactly how this technology is supposed to rejuvenate and enlarge a hockey puck-sized frozen pizza, but that's beside the point. The film apparently predicted that Black & Decker would still be the reigning kitchen gadget company of the future. Boy, were they wrong.

Giant in-wall video conferencing
In the film, they basically combine giant home flat-screen TVs and Skype. They even had the foresight to predict the massive, industry-wide aspect ratio change to widescreen.

Nike Air Mags
Nike actually released a replica version of these totally boss high-tops in 2011, but they weren't actually self-lacing, so really what's the point? We're stilling bending down to tie our shoes like our parents and grandparents.

Flying automated news cameras
This one's not that far off, actually, given the rise of consumer-level remote-control drones and GoPro cameras. So good work, movie.

Double neckties
Thank God these never caught on. The less said about this bizarre fashion choice, the better.

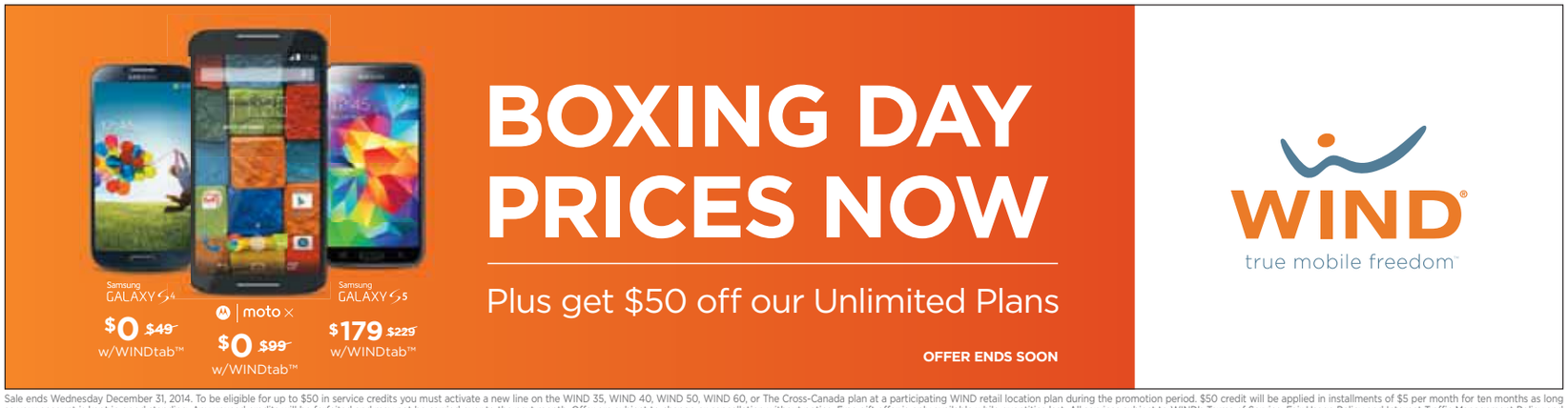
Tiring online pranksters

What gives, Internet?

For several years running, online pranksters have been following a bizarre pattern of behaviour: Taking the image of Doc Brown's upgraded DeLoreon dashboard from Back to the Future II, modifying it to show a different date and posting it online with the breathless caption, "Today is the day Marty McFly travelled in time to in the future!"

Only it's not. That day is Oct. 21, 2015. But that hasn't stopped countless Photoshop-happy fiends from misleading people on Twitter and Facebook, starting in 2010. It happens on a surprisingly regular basis, and the coming year will likely only see more of such antics.

The question remains, though: What's the point? There's really nothing to gain from duping people with this gag, and it gets disproved quicker and quicker each time. Yet still it persists. Our only guess is the reward is the pure, immature joy of manipulating others' gullibility and willingness to retweet things.



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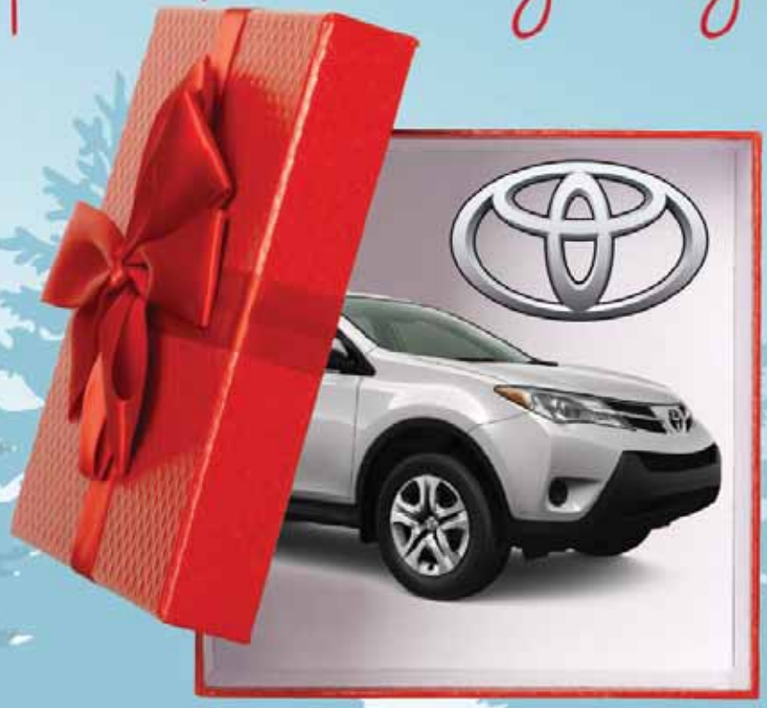

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How Jeff Probst has 'survived' 29 TV seasons

Reality television.
Host reflects on casting and shooting almost 30 seasons of Survivor

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

You might find this hard to believe, but the 29th season of Survivor wraps up Wednesday. That's right, the 29th. And host Jeff Probst's thoughts are already firmly on the 30th, debuting next year.

Actually, that's not entirely accurate. He's actually already thinking beyond that. "I'm always amazed at how much time we spend on casting — months and months," he says.

"Every year it feels like we're starting over and we're once again even now, looking for Seasons 31 and 32."

And for those upcoming seasons — which, again, won't be on the air for a good long while — Probst says they're already facing some familiar problems with the casting process. "We're once again short on women," he admits. "We can find lippy, loudmouth weird guys all day, every day, but finding a woman who wants to do it, who wants to come out there and has the personality is tough."

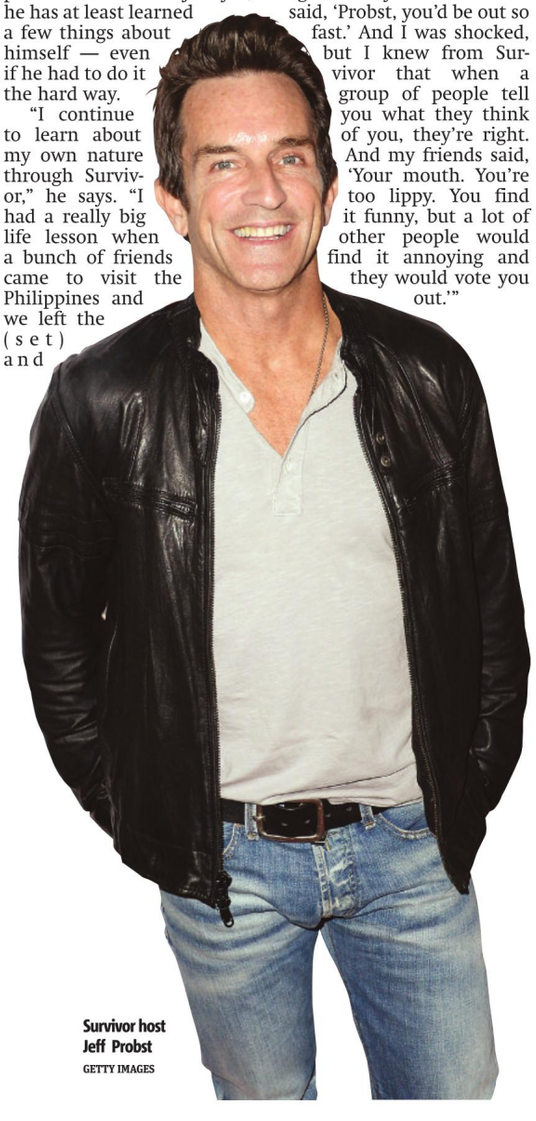
You'd think that they'd have casting for the reality juggernaut down pat by now, but no, at least not according to Probst. "Here we are 30 seasons later and sometimes I feel like we still don't quite know how to do it yet, and we still end up with people on the show that disappoint us," he says. "I remember about Season 5 or 6, we had back-to-back interviews with people, and one woman came in and told this tragic story of losing her husband in a car accident and how it impacted her life, and all of us were bored. And then the next guy came in and was saying, 'I'm eating some chips downstairs and these potato chips I was looking at,' and we're on the floor laughing. Which guy got on the show? The potato chip guy."

While Probst may not have mastered the casting process for Survivor just yet, he has at least learned a few things about himself — even if he had to do it the hard way.

"I continue to learn about my own nature through Survivor," he says. "I had a really big life lesson when a bunch of friends came to visit the Philippines and we left the (set) and were driving home in a van. For some reason we decided to play 'When would you be voted out?' It got to me and I was thinking in my head, they're are going to say that I'll go pretty deep — maybe not win, but I know the show and I'm good with words. This is what my ego was saying. And my closest friends said, 'Probst, you'd be out so fast.' And I was shocked, but I knew from Survivor that when a group of people tell you what they think of you, they're right. And my friends said, 'Your mouth. You're too lippy. You find it funny, but a lot of other people would find it annoying and they would vote you out.'"

Casting woes

"We're once again short on women. We find lippy, loudmouth weird guys all day, every day, but finding a woman who wants to do it, who wants to come out there and has the personality is tough."
Survivor host Jeff Probst



Survivor host Jeff Probst
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Ed, Katy and Coldplay rule the streaming world

Taylor Swift and Beyoncé may be hogging all the headlines, but when it comes to artists people are actually listening to, someone has them both beat. Last week, Spotify revealed its list of the year's most popular artists, and at the top is Ed Sheeran, making the lovable redhead the world's most-streamed artist.

METRO

Top Five Global Artists

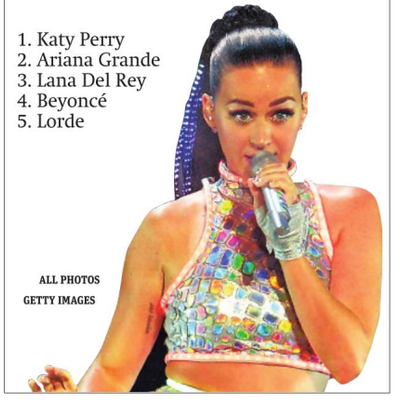
1. Ed Sheeran
2. Eminem
3. Coldplay
4. Calvin Harris
5. Katy Perry

Top Five Global Males

1. Ed Sheeran
2. Eminem
3. Calvin Harris
4. Avicii
5. David Guetta

Top Five Global Females

1. Katy Perry
2. Ariana Grande
3. Lana Del Rey
4. Beyoncé
5. Lorde



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Top Five Global Groups

1. Coldplay
2. Imagine Dragons
3. Maroon 5
4. OneRepublic
5. One Direction

Other leaders

Here are Spotify's top five tracks, albums and viral tracks for 2014.

- **Top Tracks.** Happy, Pharrell Williams; Rather Be (feat. Jess Glynne), Clean Bandit; Summer, Calvin Harris; Dark Horse, Katy Perry; All of Me, John Legend.
- **Top Albums.** x, Ed Sheeran; In The Lonely Hour, Sam Smith; The New Classic, Iggy Azalea; Girl, Pharrell Williams; My Everything, Ariana Grande.
- **Top Viral Tracks.** Take Me To Church, Hozier; Gooey, Glass Animals; Ojos Color Sol, Calle 13; Coffee, Sylvan Esso; Hey Mami, Sylvan Esso.

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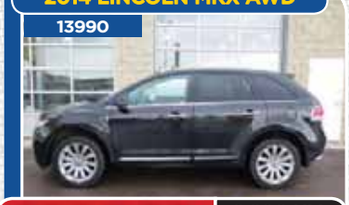

$44,988 | 9,200 KM | $299/BW | NAV • LEATHER

2013 FORD EXPLORER SPORT
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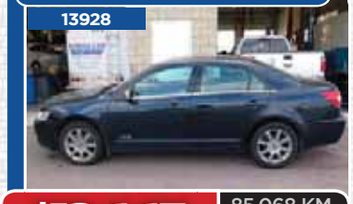
2008 LINCOLN MKZ AWD
13928



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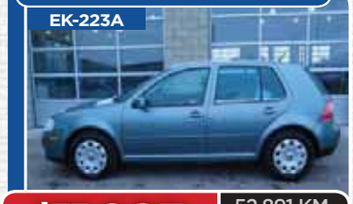

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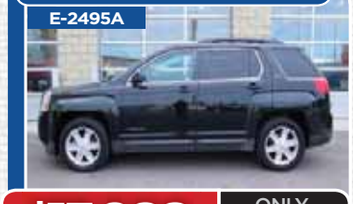
E-2495A



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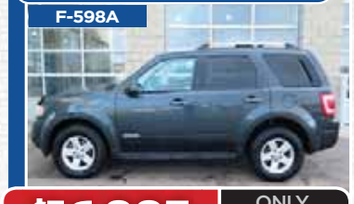

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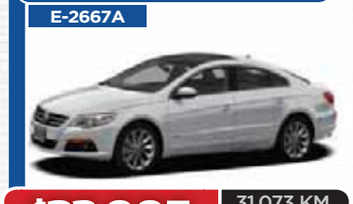

$23,995 | 31,073 KM | $189/BW | AWD • SUNROOF

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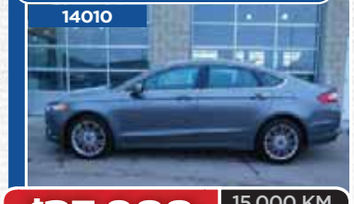

$25,988 | 15,000 KM | $389/BW | ECOBOOST • NAV

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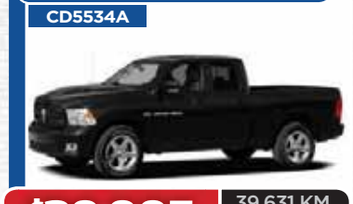

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SCENE 2015: MOVIES

5 films not to miss

Just because Hollywood is still in the grip of Awards Season doesn't mean we can't get excited about what the next 12 months have in store for movie fans. While we have to wait to see what indie and prestigious fare shake out of the festival circuit, mark your calendars with these now.

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Jupiter Ascending, starring Mila Kunis, opens in theatres this February. HANDOUT

1 Jupiter Ascending.
Feb. 6

It's encouraging to know that after not nearly enough people gave Cloud Atlas a shot, Larry and Lana Wachowski aren't playing it safe. Instead, they're doubling down on the bizarre and grandiose science-fiction fare that they're known for. Give Channing Tatum's wolf ears a chance.

2 The Last Five Years.
Feb. 19

While this musical starring Anna Kendrick, seen at right, and Jeremy Jordan isn't necessarily the best date movie — it chronicles a couple falling in and painfully out of love — it's definitely a better Valentine's Day choice than Fifty Shades of Gray.

GETTY IMAGES

3 Spectre.
Nov. 6.

The closer we get to the end of the year, the less convincing we need to get excited for big releases. Case in point: The next James Bond film, with Skyfall director Sam Mendes sticking around for another go. They've barely been filming a month and it's due in theatres in November. You've got to at least admire the work ethic.

4 Jurassic World.
June 12.

This might be a terrible, terrible mistake, but we're willing to be cautiously optimistic. For now, at least. Director Colin Trevorrow's previous indie work gives us some hope, as does Chris Pratt on a motorcycle flanked by velociraptors. Come on, Pratt. Don't let us down.

Chris Pratt stars in Jurassic World, opening next summer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5 Star Wars: The Force Awakens.
Dec. 18.

No other 2015 film really embodies the term "anticipated" quite like this one. The more bits of information J.J. Abrams lets out, the more secure we feel in its awesomeness. It's going to be one crazy Christmas.

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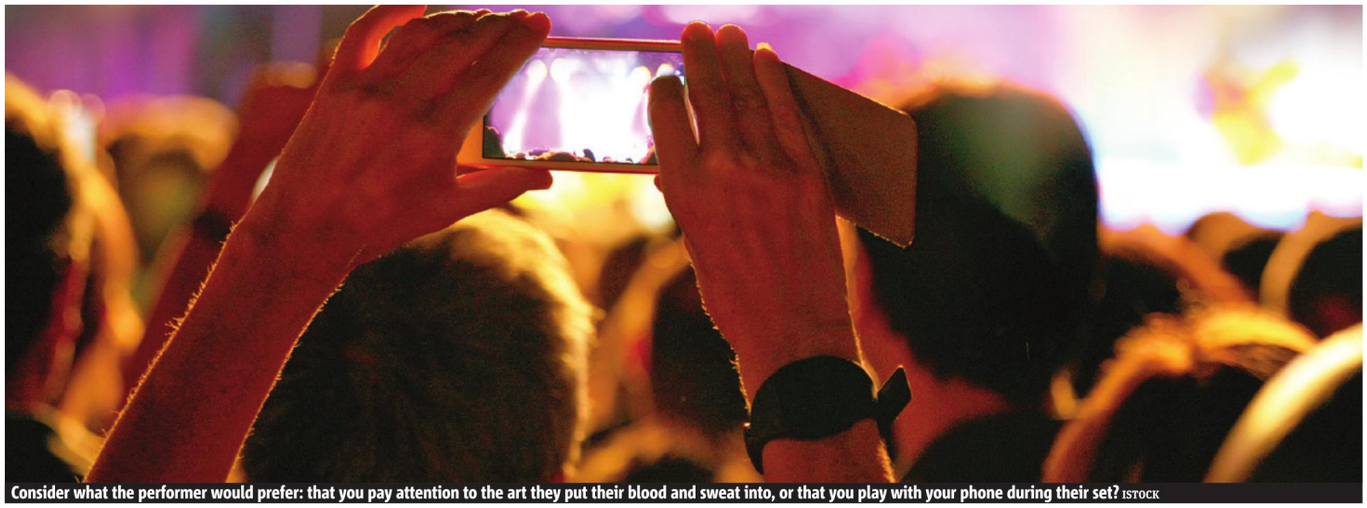

Consider what the performer would prefer: that you pay attention to the art they put their blood and sweat into, or that you play with your phone during their set? ISTOCK

LIFE 2015: SOCIAL ETIQUETTE

If you didn't do it in 2005, you shouldn't do it now

Bad behaviours. Internet culture has permeated our habits and changed how we treat each other — and not in a good way

KATE CARRAWAY
For Metro

Looking for a New Year's resolution? OK, probably not. But you may have spent 2014 participating in one (or, let's be honest, *more*) of these bad, or just sort-of-bad behaviours. So here's what you might want to resolve to quit doing in 2015.

Public Transit

It's time for a definitive ruling on public-transit behaviour — especially mid-winter, when we're packed in more than usual. Can we finally agree that it's always inappropriate to do any kind of grooming on transit?

The nail trimming obviously has to go (the fact that people do this at all will remain a mystery of my lifetime), but I'm also not thrilled to see hair being brushed or lips being glossed or, especially, perfume being applied.

Similarly, eating food — I'm talking takeout, sandwiches, anything with a scent and a personality — is giving your fellow passengers a sensory experience they didn't ask for.

Sneaking a quick face-check via iPhone camera before arriving at your destination, or having a few bites of a granola bar, is permissible, but if you're really givin' 'er, rethink it.

'Compliments'

Street harassment was a hotter-than-usual topic in 2014, in part thanks to that viral video of a woman being catcalled as she walked around New York.

It probably came as a surprise to some people (men and women alike) that while just saying "hello" to someone on the street might be done with good intentions, it's not always taken that way (especially when it's the 10th thing a stranger has said to you that day).

It's easy to forget that everyone is having their own individual experience, and imposing ourselves on that experience through unwanted conversation of any kind is straight-up rude.

Let's resolve to pay attention to other people's signals, and not assume that everyone is up for a question, a compliment or even a "hi."

Posting

With so many news stories unfolding in real time and being posted on social media, there's a huge opportunity to do it wrong. Huge.

Before posting your opinion — especially if you know less about that issue than other people in your social networks — take a beat and ask yourself if you really have anything to contribute. If not, maybe do something else, something positive, with the instinct to weigh in.

Of course, we're all entitled to post whatever we want on our own pages, but good etiquette involves always thinking about how we're creating and affecting other people's experiences. Not adding something to an existing online cacophony is an easy, subtle way to be polite.

Phone Etiquette

In a movie theatre …
My personal choice for No. 1 worst-ever phone-etiquette foul is using a phone, even just to look at it just for a second, in a movie theatre.

Here's the rule: It's just fine to text, check Twitter, whatever, during the previews, but that thing better be off — *off*-off — before the feature starts. The glow of the screen is super-obvious in a dark theatre, not just to people behind you, but to everyone on either side, all the way to the back. The only time it's OK to use your phone during a movie is if you're in the very back row, and no one else is. Got it? Good.

At a concert…
It's become common practice in the age of smartphones, YouTube, Vine and Instagram to document the parts of life that weren't considered particularly notable even a decade ago, or the parts of life that are really better in the moment, like concerts or stand-up sets.

Taking one of a million grainy clips with terrible sound that end up on the Internet doesn't really have a purpose, anyway, and it's rude — to the performer, to the people you're with and to the rest of the audience — to ignore what's happening in real time.

Consider which the performer would prefer: That you pay attention to the art they put their blood and sweat into, or that you play with your phone during their set?

On the street, or anywhere …
Camera-phone culture means it's become common practice to take photos of other people, semi-randomly and without asking. Which is crazy!

Don't take a picture without first asking if it's cool, and definitely don't post a picture of someone else on the Internet. That anyone would ever do this, without the other person's permission, is evidence of how much Internet culture has permeated our habits when it comes to how we treat each other.

When in doubt in 2015, think of what you might have done in 2005 — or 1995 — for guidance.

To post or not to post

"Before posting your opinion — especially if you know less about that issue than other people in your social networks — take a beat and ask yourself if you really have anything to contribute."

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LIFE 2015: FOOD TRENDS

5 ways to boost your health

THERESA ALBERT
myfriendinfood.com

1 The REAL deal

ALL PHOTOS ISTOCK

If Loblaws is doing it, you know it's a trend that's here to stay. Consumers are choosing foods that are good for their health — looks as though we are finally getting the message that what we do today affects our bodies and quality of life tomorrow. All President's Choice products are being (or have been) reformulated to remove artificial colours and flavours ... let the food improvement competition begin!

2 Your calf is grass

Grass-fed is where it's at. Full-on organic can be cost-prohibitive but we know the fat ratio (Omega 3:6:9) is in better balance when your animal is grass-fed. With companies like Rolling Meadow rolling out grass-fed butter (tastes just like grandma's), yogurt and milk, and Natural Life Choices serving up grass-fed hot dogs, burgers and sausages, you can really go whole hog with the grassy trend.

3 Alternative protein

Let's face it, some of us find the gluten-free trend unappealing. But our high-carb, low-protein diets are killing us. Now protein is finding its way into everything, and perhaps the most comforting trend comes in the form of fresh pasta that is low-cal, high-fibre and high-protein — it's sweeping us off our feet. Look for Skinny Pasta in the refrigerated section of your grocery store and never look back.

THERESA ALBERT IS A FOOD COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST AND TORONTO PERSONAL NUTRITIONIST. SHE IS @THERESAALBERT ON TWITTER AND FOUND DAILY AT MYFRIENDINFOOD.COM

4 Rise of the humble sap

The whole world is hugging the maple tree as it turns its back on sugar. This sweetener is showing up in everything from yogurt to doughnuts, in spreads and coffees — meaning the humble sap is taking its place in the limelight. Wear a smudge of it on your cheek with pride.

5 Fermented friend

Keffir is the new Greek yogurt, for sure, but what else can you do (deliciously) to contribute to a healthy gut? Kimchi, sauerkraut and tempeh are all fermented foods that deliver other strains of probiotics and food to feed them with.

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LIFE 2015: HOROSCOPES

SALLY BROMPTON
calgary@metronews.ca

What the stars hold for you

Aries (March 21 to April 20)

You are rarely slow to assert yourself, either in your personal life or in your career, and both the solar eclipse on March 20 and the lunar eclipse on Sept. 28 suggest you will be even more active and ambitious than usual this year. That's great — you are sure to go far — but don't forget that even an ultra competitive Aries needs to recharge their batteries once in a while. Jupiter's move into the well-being area of your chart on Aug. 11 will encourage you to take up some sort of relaxation or meditation technique. You will need it!

Taurus (April 21 to May 21)

Is there something you have neglected to do? More to the point, is there someone you still need to resolve certain issues with? According to the planets there is, and 2015 is the year to sort it out once and for all. Saturn's return to the relationship area of your chart in June will encourage you to do it. Jupiter in your fellow Earth sign of Virgo from Aug. 11 promises great things creatively and, yes, romantically, but only if you do something about all those emotional loose ends. The final four months of the year should be truly spectacular.

Gemini (May 22 to June 21)

Venus and Mars, the relationship planets, join the sun in the most adventurous area of your chart on Feb. 20, so if you are in the market for love you won't have to wait long to find it. Existing relationships will improve as well, especially if you use your imagination and make an effort to spice things up. Saturn in your opposite sign will bring challenges, especially in the closing months of 2015, but it will also bring opportunities to forge long-term alliances with serious people, the kind of people you need to balance your own carefree attitude to life.

Cancer (June 22 to July 23)

Saturn in the well-being area of your chart means you need to pay more attention to your health — physical, mental and emotional. That may not sound like a lot of fun, but don't worry because with Jupiter moving into one of the more outgoing areas of your chart in August, the second half of the year will bring plenty of social opportunities. What happens around the time of the solar eclipse on Sept. 13 will remind you that it can be just as much fun to travel as to arrive, especially when you are the one in charge of the schedule.

Leo (July 24 to Aug. 23)

A family matter you thought had been amicably resolved will return to vex you this year — especially after Saturn moves back into the domestic area of your chart in June. This time there can be no half-measures and no give and take — stamp your authority on the situation and insist that everyone follows your lead. You may be a nice guy by nature but you are nobody's fool, and anyone who thinks they can manipulate your emotions is in for a rude awakening. Treat yourself to a vacation around the time of the lunar eclipse on Sept. 28 — you will have earned it.

Virgo (Aug. 24 to Sept. 23)

The big news this year is the entry of Jupiter into your sign in August. Jupiter improves your lot on every level, but more importantly it widens your outlook on life, enabling you to see connections and possibilities where previously you could see only stumbling blocks and confusion. Mars in sympathetic Taurus from March 31 to May 12 is also an omen of bigger and better things to come, so start making plans and don't let the past limit you in any way, shape or form. Think of 2015 as a new beginning, and don't waste a single day of it.

Libra (Sept. 24 to Oct. 23)

Venus, your ruler, teams up with Mars in late February to create the perfect cosmic environment for love to blossom. If there is someone you want to get close to romantically, don't wait for them to make the first move — spell it out and let them know you think the two of you together would make the perfect couple. Career-wise July is the best month to let employers and senior colleagues know you want a better deal, or you will seek pastures new. Make your demands when Mars links with Mercury on July 16 — it's unlikely they will refuse you.

Scorpio (Oct. 24 to Nov. 22)

You have so many big ideas but you don't seem to be doing much with them. Why is that? Most likely it has to do with the influence of Neptune in the most creative area of your chart. Neptune is the planet of imagination but also indecision, so you tend to chop and change for no good reason. Happily, the influence of go-getting Mars will help you to decide what to focus on in 2015. Set your sights high, but more importantly don't change tack halfway through the year. Whatever you start, see it through to the end.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23 to Dec. 21)

Mars in the domestic area of your chart from mid-January to mid-February will help you get your home life in order, and it's important that you do so because later in the year your focus will be on more worldly matters — you certainly won't have time for family dramas. Jupiter spotlights career issues from Aug. 11 onward and it's quite possible that you will change jobs or even go back to school and study for a completely different line of work. It's never too late to move in a new direction, at least not for someone as adventurous as you.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20)

Capricorn may be cautious by nature but it is also a cardinal sign, and that means you always work toward a long-term goal. What happens between the solar eclipse on March 20 and the lunar eclipse on April 4 will bring into focus how successful — or not — you have been in turning your ambitions into concrete achievements, and you may well decide on a top-to-bottom relaunch of your life. That may sound drastic but you don't see the point in doing things on a small scale. The bigger you think and act this year, the more you will accomplish.

Aquarius (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19)

When your ruler Uranus squares up to power planet Pluto in mid-March, you will be thrust into a situation that demands a speedy and decisive response. If someone has been taking advantage of your trusting nature, you must deal with them ruthlessly, not just because they deserve it but because you need to let everyone know that you are not a soft touch. The remainder of 2015 will be plain sailing and come November, when Mars moves into the most adventurous area of your chart, you may even be sailing for distant shores. Life should always be an adventure.

Pisces (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20)

Your self-assurance will increase this year — especially around the time of the solar eclipse on March 20, which only just falls in your birth sign but will still do wonders for your confidence. And that's good because a lot of people will be depending on you. The year's other solar eclipse on Sept. 13 suggests you will be called on to fill a leadership role of some sort, one in which you can use your intuition and compassion to bring together people who might otherwise waste time in needless competition. You sense it is time to leave the old divisions of "us" and "them" behind.

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World juniors at home is the best gift of all

Five reasons why. This holiday season, watch the daring Danes, the frustrated Swedes and cheer on Canada's young guns

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Team Canada players stretch at selection camp on Dec. 15 in St. Catharines, Ont. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

With hanging wreaths and wrapping presents comes another important holiday tradition — world juniors.

Here are five reasons to watch the 2015 IIHF world junior championship, starting Boxing Day and concluding with medal games on Jan. 5:

5. Daring Denmark
Denmark may not be the top team at the rink, but will be interesting to watch. The country has earned its way back into the world's best junior tournament after winning gold in the 2014 IIHF U20 World Championship Division I Group. The daring Danes are serious about competing, and they used the World Junior A Challenge, held earlier this month in Kindersley, Sask., as a world juniors warm-up. It's a family affair for head coach Olaf Eller, whose son Mads plays forward for him, and won the 2014 Memorial Cup with the Edmonton Oil Kings.

4. NHL star power
Many junior-age NHL players jump at the chance to wear their country's colours on the ice, and Canadian Anthony Duclair is no exception. The New York Rangers have released him so he can re-join Team Canada at the world juniors. Players such as Jonathan Drouin of the Tampa Bay Lightning, Aaron Ekblad of the Florida Panthers and Nathan MacKinnon of the Colorado Avalanche are staying in the big leagues.

3. Swedish vengeance
Sweden is sick of silver. After losing to the U.S. in the 2013 final and falling 3-2 in overtime to rivals Finland in last year's championship game, nothing less than gold will do for the frustrated-with-second-place Swedes. Perhaps more so for forward Jacob de la Rose and defenceman Robert Hägg, who represented their country at both of those world junior disappointments. They have a good chance of getting what they want. Both have also been improving in North America this season, de la Rose with the AHL's Hamilton Bulldogs and Hagg with the AHK's Leigh Valley Phantoms.

2. Russian Wildcats
Forward duo Ivan Barbashev and Vladimir Tkachev aren't just teammates on their country's national junior team, they're also former teammates on the Moncton Wildcats of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League. Yep, a couple of Russian kids have honed their skills together, in the middle of our Maritime provinces. Although Vladimir Tkachev was traded earlier this month to the Quebec Remparts, both like the QMJHL style of play and because of that experience, will be comfortable on the North American-sized ice surfaces in Toronto and Montreal. These two Q-league imports intend to improve on Russia's two straight bronze medals, and reclaim gold-medal bragging rights.

1. It's at home!
Hockey folks know that fans in the stands can become the all important "seventh player" on the ice for the home team, so Canada has a clear advantage this year, since the tournament is taking place in Montreal and Toronto. Whether you're watching on your tablet or television, or seeing it unfold live at Bell Centre or Air Canada Centre, game action will be impacted by an awesome atmosphere, and your cheers for the red and white could make a difference on the road to gold.

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Team Canada celebrates winning gold at the 2009 world juniors in Ottawa, the last time Canada won the top under-20 prize. It was Canada's fifth straight championship. TOM HANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Let's hope this year starts a medal feast

Peaks and troughs. Five golden years preceded five goldless years so a turnaround is due

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For Canada, when it comes to winning gold at the IIHF world junior championship, it's been feast or famine.

The last time Canada won the under-20 tournament was 2009 in Ottawa. The late Pat Quinn was behind the bench. That capped off a run of five straight gold medals for the red and white, a feat the nation also celebrated in the mid-1990s.

But since Ottawa, Canada's world junior team has fallen on hard times. Five years without gold. No medals in each of the last two competitions. Break out the inevitable wisecracks about Canada needing a mass summit of brilliant minds and big names to cure what ails our game and restore the nation's place in hockey greatness.

This drought isn't unprecedented, but you'd have to go all the way back to the early 1980s, the days of Soviet Union domination in hockey, when Canada had a run of two or more years of finishing without a medal.

This year's tournament, starting Boxing Day, takes place in Toronto and Montreal — two of Canada's largest, most historic hockey markets. There's nowhere to hide. The pressure on Canada's junior team has always been great. It will be greater this time around. The feeling has long been anything short of gold in this tournament is a failure. Maybe that's unfair.

It's turned into a tradition for hockey fans coast to coast, tuning in during the holiday season, skipping work — sorry, "calling in sick" — to watch.

The world juniors have long since been a staple on TSN, and since that network lost its NHL broadcast deal, this tournament is sure to garner more focus from a television aspect, especially because, well, Toronto.

The last time Canada broke out of its gold-medal funk — back in 2005 — Sidney Crosby was on the team. The 2014-15 team has teenage phenom Connor McDavid. A sign, perhaps?

Details

Canada has been drawn into a tough Group A against the U.S., Finland, Slovakia and Germany in Montreal. Group B, played at Toronto's ACC, consists of Russia, Sweden, Czech Republic, Switzerland and Denmark. Here's a look at Canada's group stage games:

- **Fri., Dec. 26 vs. Slovakia**
- **Sat., Dec. 27 vs. Germany**
- **Mon., Dec. 29, vs. Finland**
- **Wed., Dec. 31, vs. U.S.**

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AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

metro AR

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If you are nice to someone who does not deserve it today you will benefit in unexpected ways early in the new year. People in positions of authority will single you out for bigger things.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Try not to waste money on things you do not need. It may not bother you now but in a few weeks time you may regret having been so free and easy with your cash.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Keep personal info to yourself today. You may be tempted to bare your soul and let a certain person in but the planets warn that is not a good idea.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
It may be obvious that a loved one is keeping something from you but there is a good reason. This is one of those occasions when it really is better that you don't know what is going on.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
If someone in a position of authority wants you to do something for them today then most likely you will have no choice in the matter. Make it the best thing you've ever done.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
There is something you want to do with your life but it means giving up so much of what you already know. Is it worth it?

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
If you try to help someone out but they reject your offer, don't take it personally. Most likely they are under such pressure that they can't think straight.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
According to the planets, a loved one is getting emotional for no good reason and it is up to you to calm them down and help them see sense again.

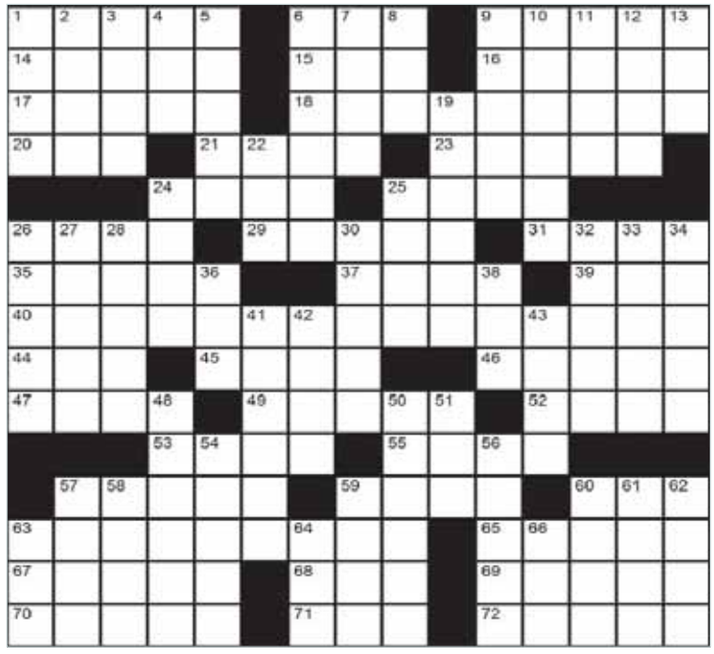
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
There is no such thing as a sure thing. Keep that in mind today — you won't go wrong. Certainly not as wrong as some of your friends, who seem to think they can do as they please.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You should be doing more with your talents. You have what it takes to make a mark on the world, so step into the light. Do something out of the ordinary.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You like to be controversial but watch out you don't push it a little too far today and annoy someone you should try to stay on good terms with.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Neptune in your birth sign means you are at your best when you let the caring side of your nature come to the fore. Don't worry that some might take advantage of you — that's a problem for their conscience.

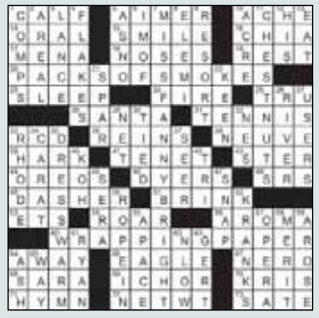
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. December 26th: They draw customers to stores
6. 4 qts.
9. Comedian Drew
14. Hero of Upper Canada, Sir __ Brock (b.1769 - d.1812)
15. 'Select' suffix
16. Jane Eyre was her governess
17. Laboratory dish
18. Bargains: 2 wds.
20. Freelancer's encl.
21. Move like a river
23. Pup's protests!
24. Soap brand
25. __-aging cream
26. The ___ (Nickname of Montreal's 1976 Summer Olympics stadium)
29. Type of snake
31. Charity contributions
35. Hasn't _ __ (Doesn't realize)
37. Supplier for Wile E. Coyote
39. Nodful word
40. Boxing Day, to many: 2 wds.
44. Belonging to Sioux City's li'l state
45. Nylons nick
46. Lifetime series, "Devious __"
47. US crash-investigating agcy.
49. Washer and __
52. Sailboat part
53. Larger-than-life
55. Coat, as with plaster
57. Scottish comedian Mr. Ferguson
59. Adhere
60. Barenaked Ladies song: "Be My Yoko __"
63. Place to eat at the mall: 2 wds.
65. Lifeboat lowering crane
67. Sidewalk artist's tool
68. City of Brazil, with Paulo
69. Decree
70. Canadian rock band, __ Hatch
71. Always, fancy-style
72. Beverly Hills' __ Drive

Down
1. Has the beverage bit-by-bit
2. "...or to take arms against _ __ of troubles..." - Hamlet
3. Behind
4. Head hearer
5. Movie genre
6. Richard Gere flick, "American __" (1980)
7. Profess
8. The Lion
9. Military trainee
10. George Clooney's sister
11. Gather
12. Building extensions
13. Nod's meaning
19. Go-getter
22. Quebec locale, __-Beauport
24. Fasten, as shoelaces: 2 wds.
25. Shoe prop, __ support
26. Drainage __
27. Apple instant messaging application
28. Makeup kit item
30. Like oversized clothing
32. Actress Ms. Cornell
33. Honey drinks
34. Speak, archaically
36. Mini-albums, commonly
38. Street for Freddy
41. Canadian bookstore
42. Drug deal buster, commonly
43. Poetic foot
48. Mr. Bumble's gig in Oliver Twist
50. Newspaper VIP
51. Sprinted
54. Fussy
56. Bovid bag
57. Small salmon
58. Horse hue
59. Highlands hillside
60. Roman love poet
61. Pleasant
62. "The Simpsons" bus driver
63. US broadcasting regulator
64. "What's the __?" (Why bother)
66. Commotion

Dec. 24's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Dec. 24's Sudoku

4	8	6	1	5	9	2	3	7
7	5	2	6	3	4	9	1	8
9	1	3	2	7	8	4	6	5
5	6	4	9	2	7	1	8	3
8	9	7	3	4	1	5	2	6
2	3	1	8	6	5	7	4	9
1	2	5	7	8	6	3	9	4
3	4	8	5	9	2	6	7	1
6	7	9	4	1	3	8	5	2

5	1	9						
4					3			
3				7				
			3	6			2	
		8	1		5	9		
	6			8	7			
				9				4
			2					5
						7	9	6

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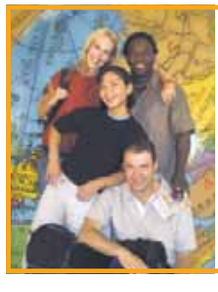
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